

# REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 CERTIFICATE

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

*THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUALS TEACHING IN PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN. PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, HALF DAY AND FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS, EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-1251, FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN PURSUANT TO ARS 15-191.01, AND PUBLIC SCHOOL-ADMINISTERED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS FUNDED IN WHOLE OR PART WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, SUCH AS THE HEAD START OF EVEN START PROGRAMS, PROVIDED NOTHING IN THESE RULES CONFLICTS WITH THE TERMS OF THE FEDERAL GRANT. EXTENDED DAY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES ARE NOT CONSIDERED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF THIS RULE UNLESS THE PROGRAM MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM SET FORTH ABOVE. FOR INDIVIDUALS TEACHING IN GRADES 1-3, THIS CERTIFICATE IS OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED. ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 CERTIFICATE MUST BE MET. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-534.03, EACH EDUCATOR MUST NOTIFY THE CERTIFICATION DEPARTMENT OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN 30 DAYS. ALL DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING TRANSCRIPTS, BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. REQUIREMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE FULLY REFERENCED IN THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.*

### ➤ PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 CERTIFICATE

*The Provisional certificate is valid for 2 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 2 years.*

Requirements for the Provisional Early Childhood Education, Birth – Age 8 Certificate are:

1. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
2. Option A, B, or C:
  - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood education from an accredited institution or a Board-approved teacher preparation program.
  - B. Thirty seven (37) semester hours of early childhood education courses from an accredited institution to include **all** of the following areas of study **and** a minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum. Practicum must include a minimum of 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool **and** a minimum of 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3.
    - Early childhood education courses shall include **all** of the following areas of study (1) foundations of early childhood education, (2) child guidance and classroom management, (3) characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children, (4) child growth and development, including, health, safety and nutrition, (5) child, family, cultural and community relationships, (6) developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts, (7) early language and literacy development, (8) assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children.
    - **One (1) year** of verified full-time teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience.)
    - **One (1) year** of verified full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.)
  - C. A valid early childhood education certificate from another state.
3. A passing score on the early childhood professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
4. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
5. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.

**NOTE:** *If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).*

6. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).
7. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

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➤ **STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 CERTIFICATE**

*The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.*

Requirements for the Standard Early Childhood Education, Birth – Age 9 Certificate are:

1. Qualify for and hold the Provisional Early Childhood Education Certificate for **two years**.
2. Option A or B:
  - A. **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience with children birth through age eight or grade three in a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities. (Please submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **two years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate being converted.)
  - B. Hold current National Board Certification in Early Childhood.
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.